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**Topic 1. Sustainability of current and future forestry operations in NSW**

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Native forest logging is unsustainable and destroying mature trees is completely unacceptable. 174 species in NSW rely on hollows for dens and nests and it takes at least 100 years for a small hollow to be created. Protections for mature trees were removed in 2018 and logging was intensified to try and get more wood from native forests. This has increased fire threat and intensity, erosion and water way pollution, and the penetration of weeds and invasive species. The destruction and interference of our native forests reduces biomass and carbon storage. Removing mature trees takes away valuable food sources and hollow bearing trees, vital for the survival of a huge number of native animals. Our native forests spaces are being destroyed at an alarming rate and this is completely unsustainable with a disregard and disrespect for the species that call it home.

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**Topic 2. Environmental and cultural values of forests, including threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage values**

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Healthy and unlogged forests are critical to the whole environment and both First Nations and non-First Nations culture and identity  
Forests, particularly healthy mature forests, generate rainfall, cool the landscape and clean the air  
150 threatened species in NSW are directly impacted by logging native forests  
Mature and unlogged native forests are critical for pollinators and play a key role in pollination across the landscape, both inside and outside of forests  
Native forests provide recreation and improved health outcomes to locals and visitors alike and are a source of community pride and connection to place  
Native forests in NSW hold significant cultural and spiritual value for First Nations people  
First Nations people and communities have ongoing connection to native forests and forest landscapes are an integral part of cultural practice and knowledge  
There are 269 nationally listed threatened species in NSW and the landscape scale significance of native forests means that native forest logging compromises many ecosystems and habitats throughout NSW

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**Topic 3. Demand for timber products, particularly as relates to NSW housing, construction, mining, transport and retail**

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Logging in native forests accounted for only 9% of the total log production in Australia in the year 2023. Native forest logging contributes only 2.4 million of the total 25 million cubic metres for that year  
Half of the logs taken from native forests in 2023 were turned into woodchip and exported  
Hardwood logs taken from plantations made up 8.5 million cubic metres, and just 8% of these logs were saw and veneer logs. 87% of hardwood plantation logs were exported as wood chips  
Hardwood sourced from native forests or plantations are no longer necessary for any of the uses identified in this section

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Sawn and treated softwood logs and composite timber products made from softwoods can substitute for all current uses for native forest and plantation hardwoods  
The market and demand for native forests is declining rapidly, the recent example of Essential Energy moving away from power poles harvested from native forests is just one example

#### **Topic 4. The future of softwood and hardwood plantations and the continuation of Private Native Forestry in helping meet timber supply needs**

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Plantations already provide 91% of Australia's log production  
A higher proportion of harvested logs from plantations should be prioritised as saw and veneer logs, rather than exporting them as wood chips  
Subsidising the logging of public native forests by the Forestry Corporation is non-competitive and distorts the market away from the more profitable softwood plantation industry  
High-end and luxury native hardwood products should only be selectively harvested on private land and under strict conditions

#### **Topic 5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models**

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Native forests that are not logged have real and tangible benefits to the entire ecology and economy of NSW  
Native state forests cover an area of 2 million hectares in NSW and impact on a diverse set of living conditions for many towns, from water quality in reservoirs, to greater tourism industry opportunities, and carbon storage and abatement  
The native forest hardwood division of the Forestry Corporation operates at a loss that runs into tens of millions of dollars, at the expense of the NSW public. It also additionally receives tens of millions of dollars in regular equity injections  
The people of NSW should not be paying millions of dollars to destroy the biodiversity of our own state and critical habitat for threatened species  
Public native forests have a much higher economic value when they are allowed to function naturally and without logging  
First Nations Ranger Programs have been hugely successful at managing the recovery and health of native forests. Programs like the Githabul Rangers have shown how First Nations knowledge and management can restore the natural and critical function of forests in the landscape

#### **Topic 6. Opportunities to realise carbon and biodiversity benefits and support carbon and biodiversity markets, and mitigate and adapt to climate change risks, including the greenhouse gas emission impacts of different uses of forests and assessment of climate change risks to forests**

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Native forest logging in NSW is estimated to release 3.6 million tonnes of carbon every year  
Ending native forest logging would be the equivalent to removing 840 thousand cars from the roads per year  
Logging in a native forest reduces the amount of stored carbon by more than half of the original value  
Ending native forest logging will allow previously logged forests to regain lost carbon and make a significant contribution to meeting our emissions targets  
Climate change is driving increased risks for forest health and continued logging in native forests is exacerbating that risk  
Forests that have not been logged are more resilient to the changing climate and catastrophic fires that are occurring as a consequence